NIH Service Provider Discussion

March 31, 2004

1. My read of the recent materials is that there currently is NOT a plan to implement support the file identifier for budget justification, thus only a text-based budget justification (with inline tabs and returns) will be allowed. For modular budgets this may be acceptable, but for more complicated budgets that will be allowed in July, this places the electronic grant a distinct disadvantage compared to a paper-based application. Since review committees carefully scrutinize such budgets, support for a PDF-based budget justification seems essential for the July 1 Pilot. Is it possible to add this capability?

2. Will a FileIdentifier for the BudgetJustification be accepted for the June/July pilot? It was not accepted for the March pilot. We think that a pdf in this case would be beneficial to the PI since they may want it formatted like other pdfs. Plain text in your system does not support formatting other than a carriage return and tab.

> **Answer to both: We understand that by not providing a PDF-based budget justification, there may be institutions and Service Providers that choose not to submit Full Budget applications until it is available; however, after further discussion, we confirmed that it is not feasible for us to implement a PDF-based budget justification for the July pilot and will continue with this pilot as planned. However, because we realize how important this is, we plan to implement a PDF-based budget justification for the October pilot.**